



The Heron Reporter

Canoe the Mercer Slough



Park Ranger canoeing
Mercer Slough.

Explore the beautiful Mercer Slough Nature Park by water! Bellevue Park Rangers lead this 3-hour canoe trip from Enatai Beach Park. You'll see how this amazing ecosystem functions as you travel into the heart of Mercer Slough Nature Park, a 320 acre wetland. With a little luck, you may catch a

glimpse of the otters, herons, turtles, and other wildlife of Mercer Slough.

Please dress for the weather. **Pre-registration required.**

When: Every Saturday (May–Sept. except Aug 7th)

Where: Enatai Beach Park

Cost: \$12 Bellevue resident, \$14 nonresident

Age: 5 years and older. 1 adult present for every 2 youth. Up to 3 people per canoe, under 550lbs.

Summer Blooms

In summer, Mercer Slough Nature Park bursts into color! Stroll the trails to discover flowering trees, wild roses, and fields of Hardhack in bloom (pictured left).



Birds, butterflies, and insects depend on these beautiful blooms all season.

Upcoming Programs - June to August

The Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center offers a wide variety of programs, including our Adult Enrichment and Family Discovery Series. For program details, visit www.bellevuewa.gov/mseec.htm.

Adult Enrichment Series



Selecting Wetland Mitigation Sites 9am-4pm June 10

*Register at: coastaltraining-wa.org



Aquatic Weed Program 10am-1pm June 26

*Register: 206-263-6461 or Katie.messick@kingcounty.gov

Discovery Backpacks



Mercer Slough Discovery Backpacks (\$5 donation)
Backpacks include all the activities and materials you'll need for launching a fun, self-guided tour through Mercer Slough Nature Park. Great for families, groups and individuals.

Available daily between, 10:30am - 3:30pm Year-round

Environmental Education Programs



***Wild B'earthday** 11am or 2:30pm Weekends

Visitor Center
Open Daily, 10:00am - 4:00pm

Family Discovery Series

Park Ranger Nature Walks 2-3pm Saturdays

***Canoe Mercer Slough** 8:45am-12pm Saturdays
Resident (\$12) Nonresident (\$14)

***Father's Day Canoe** 8:45am-12pm June 20
Resident (\$12) Nonresident (\$14)

***Mom and Me at Mercer Slough** (\$5)
10-11am July 26

***Blueberries of Mercer Slough** (\$5)
1-2pm Aug 14

Family Ranger Programs

Map and Compass	2:30-3pm	June 6
Wildlife Tracking	2:30-3pm	July 4
Knots in the Outdoors	2:30-3pm	Aug 1

Movies at Mercer Slough

Land Invaders: Amphibians	5-6:30pm	June 25
Life of Birds: Mastery of Flight	5-6:30pm	July 30
Insects: Taking to the Air	5-6:30pm	Aug 27



***To Register for Programs:**
Call: (425) 452-6885
Online: MyParksAndRecreation.com

To Register for *Environmental Education Programs with Pacific Science Center:
www.pacsci.org or call (206) 443-2925





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Blueberries of Mercer Slough

Did you know that before the strawberry, the blueberry was Bellevue's original berry? The historically preserved blueberry farm has been operating in Mercer Slough Nature Park since the 1940's.

Thanks to our beekeeper, the bees that pollinate our blueberry bushes produce tasty Mercer Slough honey. The produce stand sells this honey and other delicious local foods, now through October, 9am - 7pm.

Join us on August 14th to get a behind-the-scenes look of how this farm runs. Learn about the park's special soil and other ecological factors that make it a prime location for blueberry cultivation. Hear about the legacy of farming in this area and find out how this farm came to be. Discover Bellevue's blueberries, a tradition for over 60 years.



When: August 14th, 1-2pm

Where: Blueberry Farm
2380 Bellevue Way SE

Cost: \$5, Optional U-pick to follow program (for an additional fee).

Age: All ages. All participant register. Children under 12 must be with a registered adult.

Information: 425-452-2565

Scoop the Poop!

Your furry friend is welcome at Mercer Slough Nature Park. When you visit the park, please remember to Scoop the Poop!



Dog feces along trails and in parks can leach bacteria into streams, rivers, and even groundwater. Dog waste is estimated to cause between 20-30% of stream pollution.

For a healthy Park, the City has provided a Mutt Mitt station at Bellefields trailhead.



Please keep your pet on a leash or go to Bellevue's Robinswood Park off-leash area.

Northern River Otters

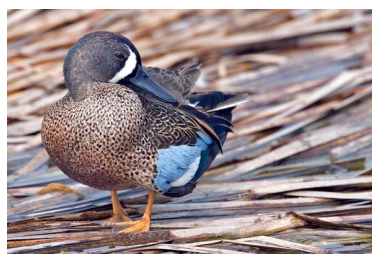
Summer is the best time to catch playful river otters splashing in the waters of the slough. Unlike their relatives, skunk and mink, the Northern River Otter is most active during the day, giving us a better chance of seeing one in action.

You might catch them sliding down muddy banks into the water or performing a few water acrobatics. Their high metabolism, which requires them to eat a lot, fuels this energetic play.



Migratory Birds

This Blue-winged Teal and its relative the Cinnamon Teal are different from all the other waterfowl you will find in Mercer Slough Nature Park. These ducks are unique because they are only here during the summer months. Some of our waterbirds live in the park year-round, and many migrate here for the winter, but these ducks spend their summers in the slough.



After breeding here during the summer, the Blue-winged Teal then flies south to the Southern US, Central America, or

even as far as South America to spend the winter. This bird is one of the last ducks to fly north in the spring and one of the first to fly south in the fall, so they are only here for a short time. Visit the park to see one while you can!

Many other birds make guest appearances in the park for the summer; including Swallows, Flycatchers, Vireos, Warblers, and more. Stop by the Visitor Center, daily, from 10am-4pm, to pick up a Mercer Slough Nature Park Birding Checklist.

Go Paperless

If you would like to receive *The Heron Reporter* by email, send request to: MSEEC@bellevuewa.gov

Just for Kids

For our youth newsletter, *Discover the Slough*, contact: Mercer_Slough@pacsci.org

